IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A trash can assembly, comprising:

a shell having a top end and a bottom end, the bottom end having a side edge;

a liner defining a container body, the liner fitted inside the shell;

a lid fitted over the top end;

a foot pedal positioned adjacent the bottom end of the shell;

a link assembly coupling the foot pedal and the lid; and

a support block provided adjacent the side edge of the bottom end of the shell [[for supporting]] to support the liner in a raised position that is at an angle with respect to the shell.

2. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the liner has a bottom end that is supported by the support block when the liner is in the raised position.

3. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, further including a base, with the support block provided on the base.

4. (Original) The assembly of claim 3, wherein the base defines a skirt surrounding the bottom end of the shell.

5. (Currently Amended) [[The assembly of claim 1,]] A trash can assembly, comprising:

a shell having a top end and a bottom end;

a liner defining a container body, the liner fitted inside the shell;

a lid fitted over the top end;

a foot pedal positioned adjacent the bottom end of the shell;

a link assembly coupling the foot pedal and the lid; and

a support block provided adjacent the bottom end of the shell for supporting the liner in a raised position with respect to the shell;

wherein the liner has an upper annular lip, and wherein the assembly further includes an annular wall provided at the top end of the shell, the annular wall having a groove which exposes a portion of the upper lip of the liner.

6. (Currently Amended) A trash can assembly, comprising:

a shell having a top end and a bottom end, the bottom end having a side edge;

a liner defining a container body, the liner fitted inside the shell;

a lid fitted over the top end;

a foot pedal positioned adjacent the bottom end of the shell;

a link assembly coupling the foot pedal and the lid; and

means provided adjacent the side edge of the bottom end of the shell for supporting the liner in a raised position at an angle with respect to the shell.

7. (Original) The assembly of claim 6, wherein the liner has a bottom end that is supported by the support means when the liner is in the raised position.

8. (Original) The assembly of claim 6, further including a base, with the support means provided on the base.

9. (Currently Amended) [[The assembly of claim 6,]] A trash can assembly, comprising:

a shell having a top end and a bottom end;

a liner defining a container body, the liner fitted inside the shell;

a lid fitted over the top end;

a foot pedal positioned adjacent the bottom end of the shell;

a link assembly coupling the foot pedal and the lid; and

means provided adjacent the bottom end of the shell for supporting the liner in a raised position with respect to the shell;

wherein the liner has an upper annular lip, and wherein the assembly further includes an annular wall provided at the top end of the shell, the annular wall having a groove which exposes a portion of the upper lip of the liner.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of replacing a trash bag that is supported by a liner in a trash can assembly, comprising:

a. providing a trash can assembly having:

a shell having a top end and a bottom end, the bottom end having a side edge;

a liner defining a container body;

a lid fitted over the top end;

a foot pedal positioned adjacent the bottom end of the shell;

a link assembly coupling the foot pedal and the lid; and

a support block provided adjacent the side edge of the bottom end of the shell;

b. fitting a trash bag inside the liner;

c. seating the liner inside the shell;

d. raising the liner with respect to the interior of the shell; and

e. supporting the liner on the support block in a raised position at an angle with respect to the shell when removing the trash bag.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein step (d) further includes:

providing an annular wall at the top end of the shell, the annular wall having a groove;

gripping an upper lip of the liner via the groove to raise the liner.